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Introduced by Mr. AVERA, of Johnston.

W. W. Holden, Printer to the State.

AN ACT DEFINING EXTORTION AND ENCOURAGING HONORABLE SPECULATION.

SECTION 1. *Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the*
2 *State of North Carolina, and it is hereby enacted by the*
3 *authority of the same,* That it shall not be lawful for any
4 manufacturer of leather, salt, woolen or cotton goods of
5 any kind, cotton yarns, nor the producer of wheat, flour,
6 corn, meal, pork, bacon, beef, beef cattle, fat hogs, nor
7 any other article of prime necessity, to sell for a greater
8 profit than seventy-five per cent on nett cost of manufac-
9 turing or producing the same.

SEC. 2. *Be it further enacted,* That it shall not be law-
2 ful for any merchant or other dealers or speculators to buy
3 and sell any article of prime necessity, included or intend-
4 ed to be included, in the provisions of this act, for a great-
5 er profit than twenty-five per cent upon the amount paid
6 the manufacturer or producer of the same.

SEC. 3. *Be it further enacted,* That nothing herein con-
2 tained shall be so construed as to allow merchant tailors,
3 manufacturers of any kind, clothing, boots and shoes, to
4 place a greater profit than twenty-five per cent. on the
5 cost of material manufactured by them.

SEC. 4. *Be it further enacted,* That should any person
2 or persons agree with the Executive, the Governor, to con-
3 struct works for the manufacture and sale of salt at not
4 more than fifty per cent on cost of manufacture, then,
5 and in that case, the Governor shall commission such per-

6 son or persons, with guarantee of indemnity against loss
7 from seizure by the enemy. *Provided*, such seizure shall
8 be made before the profits accruing from such works shall
9 reach two-thirds the amount of the original cost of con-
10 struction of the same.

SEC. 5. *Be it further enacted*, That should any manufac-
2 turer, producer, merchant, speculator or other dealer, vio-
3 late any of the provisions of this act, by demanding or
4 selling any article herein specified, for a greater profit than
5 the provisions of this act allow, he shall be deemed an ex-
[6 tortioner, and taxed fifty per cent upon all nett profits made
7 by him after the passage of this act, whether made upon
8 sales above or below the profits allowed by the provisions
8 of this act.

SEC. 6. *Be it further enacted*, That all manufacturers,
2 farmers, producers, merchants or other dealers, shall list
3 for taxation upon oath, all such profits upon his or their
4 sales, as is taxable by the provisions of this act, under the
5 same rules and regulations as are now provided by law for
6 listing and collecting taxes upon other personal and real
7 estate. And *Provided further*, That should any person or
8 persons, knowingly or wilfully fail or refuse to comply with
9 the provisions herein set forth, in neglecting or refusing to
10 list all such profits as are herein included, he or they shall
11 be deemed guilty of a high misdemeanor, and on indict-
12 ment and conviction before any county or superior court
13 of law, be fined not less than one thousand, nor more than
14 twenty-five thousand dollars, or imprisoned, or pressed
15 into the military service of the State, as a private in the
16 ranks during the war, as the exigencies of the case may
17 require. *Provided*, that nothing herein contained shall be
18 so construed as to prevent the manufacturer or producer
19 from assessing upon oath, the cost of all articles manufac-
20 tured or produced by them.

SEC. 7. *Be it further enacted*, That the Governor is
2 hereby authorized at any time when, in his judgment, the
3 public interest require it, to lay an embargo upon part or

4 the whole of the articles included in the provisions of this
5 act, except such articles as are or may be held by proper-
6 ly authorized agents of the Confederate States, or other
7 sister States of this government.

SEC. 8. *Be it further enacted*, That this act shall be in
2 force on and after its ratification during the present war.

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